

Appl. No. 09/931,088

Customer No. 27683

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were pending and were rejected. Claims 1-18 have been canceled, claims 19-24 have been amended, and new claims 25-30 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that new counsel has been chosen to respond to prosecution matters in this case, and thus the docket number has been changed. Applicant respectfully requests that further correspondence reference the new docket number if possible.

Amendments to the Drawings and Specification

The Office Action indicated several potential informalities in the drawings. Each will be addressed in turn.

First, page 6, line 14 of the specification mentions a "bit Dout(50) identified as item 56" that does not appear in the drawings. This appears to be a typographical error, as bit Dout(50) is labeled in Figure 6 as item 66. An appropriate change has been made to the specification.

Second, item 88 on Figure 7 was not referred to in the specification. The element was mentioned but the number was not included, as is evident from comparing the text to that for the analogous scrambler of Figure 2. An appropriate change has been made to the specification.

Third, the Office Action states that Figure 4 includes the misspelled label "Scambler Polynomial." Regretfully, Applicant was unable to locate the misspelled text in this figure and so no correction has been made.

Fourth, the Office Action states that in Figure 8 "the flow of data between elements 104 and 112 and between elements 116 and 108 indicate the incorrect direction when read in the context of page 7, lines 22-25 and page 8, lines 6-9 of the specification." Applicant respectfully disagrees. In Figure 8, flow is shown from ingress network processor 104 to ingress buffer manager 112, and from the egress buffer manager 116 to the egress network processor 108, as described in the specification excerpts identified in the Office Action.

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Response to Claim Rejections

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claim 8 has been canceled, thus mooted this issue.

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Walker (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,701). Claims 1-18 have been canceled. This rejection is respectfully traversed as to claims 19-24.

Claims 19-24 have been amended to more clearly present what is claimed, and it is the amended claims that are addressed herein. Claim 19 now states that the switch fabric is reconfigurable for transferring scrambled data between a plurality of switch fabric ports, in keeping with the specification teaching at page 8, lines 1-22: "Controllers 122 determine the egress ports where the switch fabric 120 transfers the scrambled bits." The remaining changes serve to clarify that the scrambler scrambles bits for switching across the switch fabric. Changes to dependent claims 20-24 have been made in keeping with the amendments to claim 19. Accompanying new method claims have also been drafted in keeping with the concept of scrambling data for switching across a switch fabric, as taught on pages 7-8 of the specification. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant could find no mention in Walker of a switch fabric. If a switch fabric were attached to buses 18 and 19, as asserted in the Office Action, bits transferred on those buses would not be scrambled, as is claimed. Although the prior art appears to teach scrambling packet data transferred to/from a network, it does not appear to teach scrambling/descrambling for internal switching within a network processing device, as claimed. Thus Applicant respectfully submits that Walker fails to teach or suggest claims 19-24, and the accompanying new method claims 25-30.

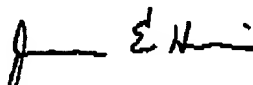
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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 19-30 as presently constituted. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 512.867.8502 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

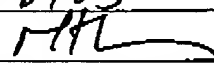
Respectfully submitted,



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